

E172

.A465

A N

A D D R E S S

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

PRONOUNCED IN

KINGS CHAPEL, BOSTON,

ON THEIR FOURTH ANNIVERSARY,

OCTOBER 23, 1816,

BY THE REV. WILLIAM BENTLEY.

WORCESTER:

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY.



E172
.A965

No. 154
LIBRARY
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
ALCOVE, _____
SHELF, _____

M. L. R. 100. E. 21.

THE manuscript notes of this Address, now for the first time printed, were found among papers of the author which came to the Society on the death of the late WILLIAM B. FOWLE. As they, evidently, had not been prepared for the press, the Publishing Committee have ventured to re-arrange some expressions, and omit a few sentences whose meaning was not clear. This paper has long been desired to take its place in the series of Proceedings of the Society at their periods of meeting.

The following vote, passed on the day of the delivery of the Address, is taken from the Records :

"Afternoon, at the
STONE CHAPEL, October 23, 1816.

Voted, That the Hon. Mr. Robbins and the Rev. Mr. Jenks be a Committee to express the thanks of the Society to the Rev. Mr. Bentley for the Address delivered this day, and to request a copy of the same for the press."

At a meeting of the Society in January following, the Committee reported "progress," and there the matter appears to have rested.

ADDRESS.

IN multiplying the associations of life, regard must be paid, not to the objects only, but to the means which they afford. Under the general name of an institution of Arts and Sciences might be included any researches which the public favor ought to embrace. Everything relating to man is history, but Antiquity regards a particular period of society, and may have its immediate and indispensable obligations. We have boasted of our schools, and every historian has given us the praise which our success has secured to us; but if the historian could have examined a book of antiquities, he might in a few lines have exhibited to the reader, not alone the effect, but the powerful causes which had concurred to produce it. From the neglect of antiquities we have almost lost the knowledge of the elementary books which preceded, in the course of instruction, those of the past century. And even our first historian, Hubbard, who was the first founder of a school upon appropriated funds, and was at ease in his condition, was reported to a most attentive biographer as a pauper, and as neglected in his old age; when he died the richest in his profession, and with greater acknowledgments from his charge than any minister has received before or after his times. No man could make more diligent inquiry, or employ greater impartiality than his biographer had done, but he had not the aid of an antiquary. The same thing is to be observed of the

son of the greatest merchant of the first century of our history. He gave his talents and a portion of his wealth to the college, and resided and died in Charlestown; and yet the value of these services, and of this character and influence, did not prevent the denial of these facts, when they were announced in the present generation, even by those who had high claims upon the public favor, and were in circumstances which might be deemed the best for information on this subject. We may observe further that the most flourishing university in our country so little encouraged the work of the antiquary, that among few of its sons are to be found the elementary books which were copied from the manuscripts of the most able instructors, and even presidents of the establishment, though these constitute elements from which the true history of the University must be given, and become of the highest value in connection with the true history of instruction in our elementary schools. Had the labors of the antiquary been duly encouraged, the best part of our history could not have been found at the present day in its present very imperfect state. If no study be more interesting to man, than that of his own race, and no part of it more dear than that of his kindred and country, the study in which we engage must have the highest commendation, particularly at a time when general neglect has almost excluded us from the best information respecting the origin of our own institutions, and the progress and means of our own prosperity.

The part I shall assign myself on the present occasion will be by the aid of the antiquary to correct some vulgar errors respecting the true character of the past generation. As that generation has too freely been represented as a race of fanatics, it has been more difficult for the historian to conceive how that which has been destructive in every other country, should have ultimately been so successful in this. And not having any proper aid from the antiquary, he is

obliged to admit causes inadequate to the great effect, and to leave hastily the whole in the obscurity in which he finds it. By fanaticism here, we do not intend any opinions of ancient or modern times, or of any nation, but that impulse from imagination that acknowledges no restraint from civil authority or the knowledge the age in which it appears—that is blind, impetuous, and dangerous.

When our settlements began, they soon perceived the favorable opportunities to promote their independence. The only difficulty was political, from the consideration of the allegiance they owed to the country from which they came, and from the dangers of powerful neighbors. But this difficulty did not prevent very important measures to hasten the time in which it might be accomplished, or very serious projects respecting the manner of it. The first project was from Mr. Williams, who, regardless of every prejudice in his time, was for a new civil constitution, and an open separation from all ecclesiastical dominion. The spirit we might commend, but not the means. More was due to what men were, and much more to what they might become. It was fanaticism which opposed itself to this project, because it was too bold on points on which fanaticism could then take no instruction. It failed, and we need say no more at present about it.

We cannot refuse to admire the first project, and to declare that it was not a civil investigation that frustrated it. The next became more successful, as it threatened nothing to fanaticism, and was executed without alarm to civil prejudices; and it may be considered as that begun in the time of Mr. Peters. This embraced three objects: the greatest commercial activity, the display of mercantile wealth, and the substitution of civil for religious festivities; and the antiquary will tell us that these three objects were most remarkably accomplished in the first generation. For the attainment of the first it was necessary to command the wealth collected

in the country, belonging to the richest settlers, and obtained from the best directed industry. We know not a circumstance that can be added to those which this project employed. The Capital had not assumed a mercantile superiority. In the negotiations of the country respecting its commercial interests, it employed the activity it found in Mr. Peters and his friends. Possessed of the claims of precedency in civil affairs, and holding the university in its neighborhood, it granted the full use of all the public stock to those who were content with the use, and really rewarded the Capital by transplanting, in the event, the greatest wealth into its bosom, with a large portion of that which was retained, after it had circulated in its own channels. We find, as early as 1658, a large importation for the two chief towns, in three ships from England only, amounting to six thousand pounds sterling. The country had not then, in this part of it, any settlement which had existed one-third of a century. The whole character of this commerce the antiquary may assist to develop, and may exhibit it in all the correct forms in which business was done in the best houses of London, or Amsterdam, or the most established marts of Europe.

But as the existence of this commerce has not been doubted, we may at present entertain ourselves more properly with the exhibition of mercantile wealth, from which we are to collect the extent of its influence upon public manners. We have too long been taught to believe that at first every thing bore the marks of a poverty, which, though voluntary, was real; that the austerity of manners did well enough agree with the horrors of a wilderness, being content only to supply the first wants, and erect a cabin which the waste of fuel rendered inhabitable. But what shall we say when we discover what articles an inventory of a first settler did embrace? The nature of the argument obliges an enumeration with which we here might be inclined to dispense, but with which they who wish plenary evidence may

be satisfied. Nor is it a solitary example. It is the exact measure at which wealth held its reputation.

At the mansion house we find every description of out-houses, adapted to every domestic convenience. For business we find the upper and lower warehouses and wharf, and the accommodations which belong to them. We are then carried to the store chamber, in which supplies are abundant. In the mansion house we find every apartment designated for its exclusive purposes. In the old hall we find floors of great firmness, walls covered with panels which fill their whole height, and windows of large dimensions and deep seats, measuring the whole thickness of the frames and the work around them. We then ascend to the Red chamber, the Glass chamber, passing the Hall chamber and Corner chambers, leaving below, besides rooms for domestic services, the counting-house and entry. Above are all the conveniences for the many servants employed in the house. Of the articles which the domestic furniture includes we may reckon above 70 articles of plate of every description, giving 1056 ounces, equal to £352. In the out-houses we find places for the family horse, and whatever may increase domestic enjoyment. Nor are these pleasures solitary. The life of the town is assisted by all the advantages of adjacent farms and cultivated territory. One farm a few miles from home has 200 acres; another at a greater distance, 800 acres. Houses and lands, besides, were holden by various claims, or under leases. Nor among the stores of the family do we find less than three pipes of Madeira reserved for domestic use. An inventory of 70 pages is entitled to so much notice. But this quotation would be less pertinent were it without example. We might adduce the same things from other estates, and if in some of them the amount might be less, it would not be because any articles we have enumerated were omitted. Such houses as yet remain, erected in the first century, give ample confirmation to these legal records

of wealth. We are not to suppose that this wealth, so displayed, had not everything which could aid its duration and give it the perfection of which the age was capable. We find, in the many Corinthian capitals, that the huge Gothic coverings had not obliged them to forget the effect which a whole front could receive from the just elevation of Grecian orders; and the rudeness of the wilderness had not made them forget the regular pavements on which their buildings were approached.

But the accommodations of the possessor did not terminate with the habitation in which he dwelt. The ornaments of person were as well known and as eagerly sought as in any age, and the antiquary may produce letters from the most devout families, and even from the families of ministers, in which the taste of the greatest city in the world is as earnestly consulted as to dress and colors as we could imagine it might be in an age of luxury and beauty. Nor was the severity of republican manners allowed to interfere with these indulgences, and these enjoyments of wealth and beauty. The destruction of such good things under the pretence of zeal, would have been more extravagant in that age than in our own. Such as have seen the wives of elders, who survived to the past century, well know that no persons were more rich in their apparel, or more careful of respect at home and abroad. The effects were not limited. In religious assemblies, the magistrates and citizens in commission had their special seats, and the valuation of estates was seen, not barely in the records of office, but in public meetings, and even in the catalogues of their rising institutions of education. Whatever could thus have influence upon the whole character of life, should not be overlooked by the historian, and the antiquary should be ready to supply; as without it the most false calculation might be made of the condition of society and of the real means of its advancement to that state which may command our respect and admiration.

But another subject yet lies before us, which will disclose not barely a spirit of imitation, but the discernment which posterity will appreciate as belonging to character, if not honorable to genius and a refined civil polity. It is that to which we referred when we mentioned a substitute of civil for religious festivities. It is entitled to minute investigation, which at some future time it will undoubtedly receive. It is an odious task to impose restraints upon the passions of men, and particularly to attempt to change the expressions of them. Civil governments have preferred to associate public festivities with the religious principle, to become more sure of the act and of the principle. In Christendom this sentiment had lost none of its force at the reformation, and the same motives which had induced Christian nations to adopt the festivities of civil governments by changing, not the form, but occasion of them, would still urge an enlightened government not to forget all these experiments upon human nature. The purpose of our country was not to abound in civil festivities and the public aids of the passions, but to restore to the State, and to the institutions it adopts, the exclusive indulgence of all the festivities it would create. We might have expected from superstition that the ancient solemnities would remain, and from theory, that if they were denied all the pomp they had assumed to awe and engage the senses, the conviction which could produce so great a change, would wage an eternal warfare with every sportive scene and passionate indulgence. But what can be done by a sect, cannot be done by human nature. What Christian nations might allow to religious orders with benefit to society could never be imposed upon the whole social character. What the indulgence of the Church had made the duty of religious orders, was left in our country to private manners. What was then to be the substitute for the domestic observance of christenings and the solemn pomp of consecration? What was to reconcile the people to an almost total exclusion

from even the ceremony of baptism? What was to persuade them that the recurrence of Easter day and Christmas was not to divide the years, and that the canonical days were to pass without any notice? As commerce was to enrich society, the launches of ships were rendered important amusements of the people; and the entertainments on such occasions gave the men of active business an opportunity to excite the strongest affections to themselves by these public exhibitions, and by a liberal provision for the working men they employed. The expenses as reported to us, would be sufficient for some of our modern entertainments. Military reviews had all the attention of the government, and the articles of military dress have in some families been preserved beyond a century. They were occasions on which the rich revealed their love of honors, while they denied themselves no badge of office, and no ceremony which had been preserved in any book of discipline. The court days were not less festive than the military, and were celebrated in the most distant settlements; while the humble sports and generous feats of strength assigned to the annual period of their elections were as sure to be repeated as the diversions of a birthday or of a coronation. Such substitutes might answer for the sportive passions, but in the hour of bereavement superstition might insist upon all its claims. How dispense with the ritual of the dead and impose an uninterrupted silence upon the house of mourning, the funeral procession, and the visit to the tomb or the grave? How forbid the funeral anthem, or the devout ejaculation to the saint? Yet our fathers did impose this silence. After the last breath the language of prayer ceased from the lips of the minister of religion. He had no other office than that of every neighbor, to join in the same procession, or to take his place at his pleasure among mourning relatives and friends. The expenses on such occasions were the greatest which

in social life could occur. Every one provided for the charities or tokens which were to be his last gifts to his friends and neighbors. It is the fate of the antiquary, that, while he finds it necessary to exhibit such circumstances, they will be often thought too trifling by those who know not how to appreciate them in real history, where they may not even be mentioned. What should we think, in times of economy, of one hundred pounds in funeral charges, which had no other object than compliance with the custom? Should we imagine it was an age of poverty when custom required the purchase of 40 dozen pairs of gloves, of which the greater part were used at the funeral, and sixty gold rings, of which some were valued at five pounds, and none so low as half that amount? What shall we say of a bill which exceeded 400 pounds, and not far from sterling value? We have no occasion to pay such a price for redemption from any European customs we might discommend. The lapse of time destroys the spell which long habits impose, and we can enjoy an innocent freedom upon these subjects. But the danger of relapse will be an apology for the first settlers, which will be admitted by every candid man. And how shall we judge fairly of them if we have not their manners before us, and cannot assign the causes which were sufficient to advance their civil state beyond that of other European colonies.

It is to commerce we are indebted for the advancement of our settlements to that success which no errors of opinion could overthrow; and while it was able to yield such advantages, we surely owe it such an investigation as will lead us to put a full value upon its resources and its opportunities. If we are indebted to Mr. Peters for his concurrence in the measures of our commerce, we are not less indebted to Mr. Norris, his successor, for his aid to industry in the arts by which the commerce of our settlements was assisted; and we cannot have better evidence of the general interest than the relapse into the greatest domestic

danger upon the decline of commerce, and the general fears which the revolution in England seemed to occasion. All the great houses of commerce had establishments in the Capital, and conducted all their business in this manner. They established some of their children, and possessed houses, stores, and wharves, by which their business had the same ample advantages, in different situations, and even upon such parts of the shore as supplied lumber, or fish, or any thing which could be valuable in the market. Never do we discover greater anxiety than after the restoration, when the monarch proposed to unite a part of the present province of Maine to the government of New York, with which before no serious competition had arisen. The first thing was to provide competent ship-builders, and each settlement was ambitious to claim the best specimens of naval architecture; but the enterprise of Mr. Peters soon produced a ship of 300 tons; and the timber hills are still known from which he supplied his workmen. The artificers of that day still have posterity in the same occupations; and from them have been obtained the models of their vessels, the price of tonnage, and all the articles supplied in the market for ship-building. We find by arrivals at Boston, from Europe, the value of the commerce during the commonwealth. We find one cargo invoiced 2949£.; three company ships at 3437£.; one at 1666£.; another at 1387£.; another at 5835£.; another at 2975£. Voyages to France are mentioned, as well as to England. The three ships, Prudence, Mary, and Speedwell, are reckoned at 4943£.; the Trial to France at 1328£. and America to France 3825£. We content ourselves with a cursory notice, from which we may infer to what amount voyages in the first generation had arisen.

We are led to inquire about the domestic trade, and we find early from the families of Endicott and Hathorne, persons residing in Maine to secure the lumber trade. The history of this trade will give the value of the first purchases

in that country, and the extent of their conflicting claims. At one time a merchant had debts at the Eastward amounting to above 1200£. in sums advanced in the lumber trade. The agreements with the logmen give the same general character to the trade which it still retains. The fishing voyages were made in four fares, and the stock and respective fares were made out great and small generals, as at the present time. The greatest care was taken to reserve on the shores the most suitable lots of land for the fishery, which gave employment to many hands ashore; and the regulations prevented any purchases which should give exclusive privileges in particular places, so that the great changes which arose from the different location of settlements, were due to the different localities of the fishing business. The fishery at home was so settled into a system that the gains were chiefly with those who could ship to a market after making their purchases from the fishermen. The business, from its regularity, soon became the exclusive or general employment of whole settlements, to which it gave its own manners and character; raising, as in Europe, a most hardy and enterprising race for all naval adventures.

The commerce in America soon became greatest in small vessels, even those employed in the fishery with the West Indies. Barbadoes appears at the most early period very often on the books of the merchant. It was at a later time that conquest gave to the English Jamaica, which soon became a favorite island. In one of the Ketches in the first West India voyages, we find Pork, Mackerel, Bass, Cod, Tar, Flour, Peas, Oil, and Butter, invoiced at 253£. The whole in quarters at 469£. Voyages were made to other islands in the West Indies, as the laws of trade and prospects of success did admit, and also to the Madeira Islands, and the islands of its neighborhood, particularly Fayal. The trade to Bilboa, in the Bay of Biscay, was also early

known and much used, as well as the trade to other parts of Spain and to Portugal.

With whatever interest we regard the foreign trade, we may find there the causes which have concurred to produce the union of our States, as these appear in the different periods of our history from the beginning. Though it be true that our existence under the same government must have supplied the most powerful causes of union, yet it is evident that our rapid progress did at every period obtain for us advantages never derived from this same government. The political wisdom which resigned to the British nation the settlements which the Dutch and the Swedes had made in the most flourishing part of our country, was directed by the slow growth of those plantations, and the higher value of our own. The same policy arrested the regions in the North, which had been possessed by the French, and those which had been held by the Spaniards in the South. And it is the same condition of things which has given to the States, since the revolution, the extensive regions of Louisiana. Whatever any portion of the Southern States may claim from the priority of date to their settlements, we trust it will not be questioned that they were inferior to us in their commerce at the period of which we treat, and if they have not been indebted to our example, they must confess they were later in the school of commerce than ourselves.

Our first southern voyages were to Virginia, under which name was included the southern portion of the States, as the whole, our own territory included, was South and North Virginia. We soon find clearances for Virginia and Maryland. For a century these voyages were made by our fishermen in the winter season in their fishing craft, and often upon freight. The principal articles were corn and pork and naval stores, which were brought for domestic consumption. Our own trade was much limited, even at a later

period, by the habits which had been formed in the first generation.

The trade with New York began as the first generation was passing off. While a Dutch settlement, we have evidence enough of the jealousy towards it which New England maintained. But when all claims beyond its immediate territories had ceased, in 1665, the spirit of commerce conceived a new opportunity for trade. The Dutch West India Company failed at the time our commerce began. They had not agreed upon their limits till 1650, and had not time to restore confidence before the union under the same government. We find goods advertised to New York in 1665, and a freight paid to the same place for 30£; the adventure being more than seven times that sum. Another freight was paid in another vessel in the same year. We discover the uncertain character of this commerce in the payment of cash, and we observe that two pipes of wine found a good market. These seem to have been some of the measures to open a commerce which has since been of great value to the Union, and the intercourse never afterwards was long interrupted.

The trade with Rhode Island plantations, and with Connecticut, was adventured by the same merchants, and had continued from the beginning. But as many of their sailors were from our plantations, similarity of habits had brought many of their vessels into our ports, and of our vessels into their own in turn. The Ketch beginning was upon such voyages, and we find orders expressed to go to the southward to fall into the sound of Rhode Island and of Connecticut, to make up their cargo of Wheat, Corn and Pork. The freights for fish to the Isles of Shoals, and for Piscataqua and Portsmouth and Great Island, which were early in a flourishing condition from the fishery, are often mentioned. In the same manner visits were made to Cape Sable on the coast below us. Our adventurers often suffered from

the Indians in the higher latitudes. It was at a later period that the whale fishery had vessels from all our ports, but the oil which was procured was always in our ports. The whole view of an infant people in such progress may yield impressions very favorable to their industry.

One thing is very honorable to the character of our first merchants, and it was the unbounded credit they gave to each other. Whatever was judged expedient for a voyage, and was to be found in the possession of any other merchant it was obtained upon credit, or the owner was invited to become interested in the voyage which it could render productive. We often find sums as large as the whole amount of property upon credit, without any embarrassment to the merchant, if the articles he might require were in the market. This confidence was not confined to business. All the supplies which are necessary to domestic life, are obtainable in the smallest quantities, while we find the greatest luxuries furnished as the occasions or wishes of neighbors may require. Hardly a wine of any quality could be named that could not be found, and it was no part of their temperance to live penuriously, but to have the best without abuse and with friendship.

It is an inquiry that will be made on this subject, were the benefits derived by society contemplated by those who were the instruments of them, or were they only in pursuit of wealth, regardless of the general advantages which might arise to the whole community? It is upon the answer to this inquiry that their highest value must depend. It is a known and acknowledged truth, that the greatest merchants were the greatest benefactors of the infant colony. The proudest building of our capital was the donation of a merchant, and the greatest merchant of Salem not only was liberal on all great occasions, but he assisted in building places of worship, in erecting a college, and in endowments of both college and schools; and his example was followed

by his posterity without any diminished effort. The character gained in the first days of our existence has served as the guardian of our better years, and of our richest hopes. The son of Mr. Brown was supplied from the wealth of his father, and gave his best services to the college and to the churches. Though he accepted no pastoral charge, he performed all its duties, and honored the college and the churches, as well by his services as by his bounty. It would be odious to distinguish families, but what families have done more honor to our country and to our college than those of Leverett or Winthrop! The civil and military and learned professions have had their greatest ornaments from such families as possessed the wealth of the country, and this had no other source but its commerce. Public honors had not in that age rich endowments. From the bounty of the rich our public institutions were maintained, and education in the first generation had all the assistance which enlightened Europe could afford. Says Mr. Peters, writing to Deacon Orne, my desire is that my wife should return to America, and I propose to follow. It was my mind that my cousin Downing should educate my child and dwell in my house. This person was afterwards a minister abroad in the reign of Charles the second. And it should be remembered that no dissensions in churches, no questions of military obligations, and no parties for family interests, arose from combinations among men of business. Their share in the confidence of the people came from the industry they promoted around them. We have not any works from the press to which we can appeal, as the press was almost altogether surrendered to the government and to the ministers of religion; but none of the public documents bring them into disgrace, or allow us to impute any public calamities to their interference. The people never suffered from their independence, and never were betrayed by any effort to corrupt them. It was in our towns that their influence was

most felt, and that the best schools were found. Public opinion has assigned to the ministers of religion the special qualifications for teachers of literature; but in the oldest settlement, scarce a year can be named in which the instruction of youth was not found to be directed by men who had no offices in the church.

In the military service we discover their constant pre-eminence. They seem to have inherited those honors. And this distinction, which began from the influence of character, has not been lost in our own times. Such honors were shared among the best citizens, who combined heroism with their agricultural pursuits; but in every part of our country we have seen the tendency of corresponding pursuits to furnish candidates for military promotion. It is not to bestow an undue share of praise, that this respectful notice is taken of an invaluable class of citizens, but to disclose how much the antiquary may do in restoring history to its truth and its simplicity. Enough is known of past events, and related in accordance with unquestionable facts, to satisfy us that it is from the active habits of men and nations their hopes must arise; that whatever office they assign to opinions, it must be to increase the public virtue of the age. That part of national character is the best which preserves industry, provides its means, enlarges its honors, and secures its blessings. We need not employ a single quotation from foreign history. We have only to examine our own. The dangerous opinion that the State has a religion to defend against the right of private judgment, repeatedly involved our settlements in imminent danger. One of the best friends of civil liberty was obliged to retire. One of the greatest men of the settlement, by the strength of his genius, gave authority to persecution. Had not a power existed to restrain this zeal, every hope must have been abandoned. Repeatedly the same spirit endangered that balance between the undiscerning and the wise, upon which public safety depends; and it was from the

aid which the interests of commerce afforded and the light it gave, that the balance was restored and the higher wisdom prevailed. Society still continues to need the same balance, and it is by the power we can command, and can suitably direct, that we accomplish the best good. It is not the quantity of the power, but the suitable application of it.

How much we are indebted to the vigilance of commerce for our present political situation is well known. What our gratitude ought to be to the agency which supports our public institutions, which prevents religion from all the degradation that superstition could introduce, which gives patronage to our arts, which excites domestic industry and rewards it, that preserves the fine arts for our manners, and the best amusements to exclude the worst, it is needless to declare. It is enough if the antiquary can show us our former obligations; we trust our own prudence will accept the same guardianship, and that the more we know of the true cause of our greatness, the more sure and exalted it will appear.

The arts which commerce would encourage, are such as best support its true interest. It could not expect in an infant country to rival the proud establishments of Europe. Its first independence must be of the aids which its first necessities would require. The prudence which would provide mills for the preparation of food, would provide mills for the lumber trade, and the necessary articles for the management of the fisheries. All these would be of little use without ship-building. This art was soon introduced, and we are persuaded upon the best instruction; as Mr. Peters, when in the Low Countries, had visited the works which the great Richlieu had established when he endeavored to collect by every allurement, the best workmen in Europe into the French service. In the families of the most early emigrants of this craft from Europe, we

find only such books as were of later date than the first generation, and a few French engravings.

For a sloop we find the following proportions: Upon the keel 41 feet, by 15 on the beam, and by $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet in the hold. Having $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in the waist, a steerage and cabin, a rake afore and aft, and two ports on a side. Contract upon the last day of June, to be delivered afloat in September at 3£ 5s. per ton. Another, double masted, to have 50 feet keel, and the rake of the stern post before 12 feet, and the breadth of the beam 19 feet, with a good round bow under water. The depth of the hold 9 feet 9, and three feet between decks from plank to plank, a rising abaft for a quarter deck 14 inches, to come to the main mast; the wales to be 5 inches thick, and wale pieces to be as long as possible, and one strake of plank on the wales, and another under of 4 inches, and tract line of dead rising 7 feet 9, sweep answerable. All the futtocks (tuthucks) of white oak. No plank to exceed 12 inches in breadth when worked, timber grown to the mould. Eight pounds to be paid per ton. 200£ at laying the keel, 100£ at the wales, 100£ at the upper deck, and to make up the two-thirds in money at delivery, and the payment of a third in goods. Another with a pink stern in April, to be finished in August at 10£ per ton. Keel 42 feet, 16 feet beam, and 7 feet 8 inches hold. 100£ at raising, 100 when demanded, and last at finishing, with all the usual customs attending such contracts. A special regard is always paid to the quality of the timber. At this time the iron was an article of importation, though able smiths were in the country to work it, and perhaps in as great variety as at present, as it was employed in more domestic uses than in our times, and polished for the best purposes. The Spanish iron is sometimes charged at double the price of English, and always above it. The Spanish steel had the same preference. Canvas is reckoned at 30 pence a yard. The carpenters were led to combine very different labors, as may be

known from the following contract: The house that is to be built, must have the following dimensions. Its length 24 feet from inside to inside, and its breadth 18 feet. The length of stud 10 feet between wall plate and ground sill, with three lengths of joist, to jett at the end next the street 2 feet, with handsome pendulas: One gable end on the west side and towards the north end, together with sleepers for the lower floor. The frame to be completely raised, and the price in goods, 12 pounds. To furnish the house in addition to the plate, was the great quantity of pewter which was required, for which we have a ready substitute. Thirty-five pounds was not an uncommon portion; in some families we find 452 weight. The form of it differed from that in present use, as the dishes partook of the shape adapted to the separate use of liquids, so that the depressed part did not exceed a third of the whole diameter. The articles of plate were all imitated in this metal; and we find in the list, tankards, basins, salvers, dishes, plates, bowls, goblets, porringers, cups, pots, and spoons of every size. To riches and strength they added ornament.

Some of the specimens of painting which remain have nothing superior in the durability and combination of colors; and the art to which they had recourse, seldom gave them cause to renew their call for its aid in their apartments for several generations. The greater use of wood for the apartments very much confined the labors of the mason, who had seldom any opportunity to display his skill but in places which required more strength than beauty; the decorations on the parts of the chimney which passed beyond the roof being the principal display of taste abroad, as the hearth and the tile were around the fire. These seldom required repair. So great was the confidence in the cement, and so free its use, that no complaint was made against the smallest stones which could be used in a wall; and the unbaked clay and light bricks which were interposed between the two

wooden surfaces of the rooms sufficiently guarded against the exterior cold. The aid of the glazier was admitted more sparingly in private houses. Windows in common apartments were small, and differed more in the forms in which the glass was cut and leaded than in the size. The exclusion of strong light, whether for health or from habit, was never regarded as an inconvenience in any season; as it was thought to be as well adapted to cool the air in summer as to the confinement of the warm air in winter.

Things in ordinary use, both of wood and metal, were soon provided by the labors of artificers in the country, and soon became articles of traffic with the more Southern settlements. In leather, such articles as were required for common purposes were readily supplied, and not of an inferior quality. But such articles as were variously colored never were profitable enough for extensive manufacture. In woolen and linen, nothing could be found in daily apparel which had not been gained by domestic and female labor; but it was no cause of reproach to wear on great occasions the cloths from the best foreign manufactures, and to continue them in families for special use in many generations. This ambition was by no means exclusive, and every honest citizen was commended for it; particularly if he received such a valuable inheritance from some worthy ancestor. A love of ancestors was in everything encouraged. The walls of the wealthy were hung with the full-length portraits of their progenitors. Figures less than life-size were seldom seen, and it is upon this account we have so few heads of the first settlers. When the first painting was defaced, the picture was lost. It was not till the second century that the engraver was taught to preserve by many copies the supposed resemblance of a man whose memory had been rendered dear to posterity. Had the last art been coeval in our customs with the first, we should have secured many pleasures for posterity.

Of all the apartments, that for sleep was supplied with everything which taste or wealth could administer. No richer specimens of art and expense have been ever exhibited. It has been imagined that the fine arts were neglected, and should our own customs be the test, this might be admitted. From the manner in which the psalmody of the Church was performed, this inference was drawn. But it should be remembered that in all Christian churches the music was directed from the altar, and limited as the service by its canons, and that the protestant and reformed churches made no innovation. The first attempt to reform this part of worship was from the plea that the tunes did not admit variety of measure and expression. In the first generation domestic devotion was always accompanied with music; and no compositions passed through more editions than the simple poems which chastised all the passions into devotion.

Nor were they strangers to graceful motion. No invectives against any abuses ever excluded the song or the dance from families of every condition, and a greater proportion were acquainted with the movements and melodies than probably in our own days. The greatest difference in manners probably arose from the union of all ages. Everything indulged in for sport or pleasure was common to the aged and to the young, and no occasion supplied motives for separation. It was not imagined that passions which were born with us and brought up together were ever to be separated, but that in age they required the same company they had ever enjoyed. It was the cheerfulness of age that was the guardian of youth, and the sympathy was more blessed as it was perfect. What pleasure the antiquary has who can sit down with such company, and is not disgusted with some unusual ceremony, when he reads the pure sentiment that it loves! He can see all the affections in which he delights, though at first they may seem to speak



a strange language. With him nothing is disguised by its habit, or recommended but by its native claims. He knows the patriarch by his gray hairs, and by the charms of his countenance, whether he be found in the habiliments of ancient or modern times. He asks no table of chronology for the date, and distinguishes circumstances as readily as the merchant can his gold, or his weights and his measures. He can no more confound the man with his appearance, than the substance of a book with the sentiment of it. And he will no more judge of that of which he knows not the condition, than he would of the contents of an apartment into which he has never been suffered to enter. Antiquaries have been judged as our ancestors have been. They have been denied to be gold because they have not the same inscriptions as current money. It is because they are the pure and not counterfeit coin that we love them. They tell us, as we read them, when they were made, and offer themselves at their real worth. To others they are only old gold, if even this property be known. The standard and the value belong to a better judgment. To ourselves and to our country we owe more discernment. If we remember prosperity, we should know how it was gained. It is not enough that some cause be assigned, or that the report should not be questioned. It is the truth we seek, and the truth, wherever we dig, we would find. A single fact may dissipate error and set us free. Human life is a display of virtue and vice, and of truth and error. Genius has been busy with it, and talent employed in it; but genius has not possessed it at pleasure, and talents have not commanded it. Five are wise and five are foolish. The lawgiver surprises us with a theory of the passions and a project for a good government. The civilian makes the best of the laws as he finds them. But some mind that sees things exactly as they are, puts the smallest weight he can find on the balance, at the point which can move the world.

